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The Paper that Does Things

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MAY 31, 1916.

THAT KANSAS CITY KNIFE THRUST.

Happily, over night, what promised to become a nation-wide sensation, because of a knife having been thrown at Mr. T. Roosevelt during the parade at Kansas City yesterday, boding an attempted assassination, has dwindled into insignificance.

Happily, we say again, whatever may have been the facts, the colonel was missed. Such attacks upon the public men of the nation are damnable regardless of the real or imaginary offense that the victim may have committed against his would-be assailant.

That the incident should have fallen short of success, or have amounted to nothing, is lucky for another reason. Since much that is said herein was published this morning, at least one bull moose has undertaken to muzzle us, by the very bullying, brow-beating process that it anticipates, in confirmation of the possibilities exposed.

Our position is, and we repeat it frankly, that the day is past when the free press or the free voice of the American people needs feel under any obligation to remain silent, or indifferent to Mr. Roosevelt's political antics, in order to protect him from the cranks.

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everything—except for the remainder of his natural life in the penitentiary of Missouri. There are brains enough in this country to settle Mr. Roosevelt without resort to physical violence.

WAR INSANITY.

The prolonged Verdun battle, like other phases of the great war, has become an old story. We are no longer moved by the news of it. Reports of so many meters gained, of a bombardment of so many hours' duration, or even of the loss of so many thousands of men, make little impression. It is only mathematical.

But here is what is actually happening at Verdun, as told by a French captain:

"West of the Meuse, at least, one dies in the open air, but at Douaumont is the horror of darkness, where the men fight in tunnels, screaming with the lust of butchery, deafened by shells and grenades, stifled by smoke.

"Even the wounded refuse to abandon the struggle. As though possessed by devils, they fight on until they fall senseless from loss of blood. A surgeon in a front line post told me that in a redoubt at the south part of the fort, of 200 French dead, fully half had more than two wounds. Those he was able to treat seemed utterly insane. They kept shouting war cries and their eyes blazed, and, strangest of all, they appeared indifferent to pain.

And that is what war has come to. It is worse than anything Sherman ever dreamed of. Who can contemplate that vivid picture of blood and clamor and darkness and battle fury without shuddering that human beings like himself should come to this? Who can read it and not pray for peace?

GREAT BRITAIN'S STRONG MAN.

"Let Lloyd-George do it" seems to be the motto of the British government, when there is a sk on hand too big for anybody else. And Lloyd-George promptly goes and does it. Settling the Irish problem is the latest, and perhaps the most difficult, of a long series of jobs on which he has made good.

It is really remarkable, the confidence that the British nation has come to have in this "little Welsh lawyer" who but a few years ago was regarded with contempt or distrust. Premier Asquith was thought to have done a perilous thing when he made Lloyd-George chancellor of the exchequer—as we should call him, secretary of the treasury, with far greater powers than our own secretary possesses.

With that chore attended to, it was found that the pressing need in England was a vast supply of munitions. Guns and shells were needed even more than soldiers. That meant the organization of the nation's industries along entirely new lines.

Representative William Kent of California went to a doctor a while ago to find out about some minor ailment, and while there he learned from the doctor that he also had a peculiar little swelling about one elbow.

"Well, well," chuckled Kent's doctor friend. "Doc Soandos did it, oh! That's a blamed good joke on him. He ought to have known better than to fool with your elbow for a little thing like that. I'll kid him about it when I see him."

"Yes," said Kent, scratching his elbow. "It's a rich joke on him, all right. Every time I try to straighten out my arm I feel like bursting into uproarious laughter at his expense."

San Diego's mayor asks the city council for an ordinance prohibiting imitations of Charlie Chaplin on the streets. "Such things are undoubtedly detrimental to the dignity and high standing of any municipality," he says.

We rise to second the San Diego mayor's motion. We will second it twice, if permitted.

Charlie Chaplin and his imitators may be all right on the screen. At least the public doesn't have to witness their stunts if it doesn't want to. But to cram it down our throats on the public thoroughfares is carrying the thing too far. It is not only "detrimental to the dignity of a municipality" but it causes us to realize too forcibly and frequently what fools we mortals be.

A CHICAGOAN WHO'S AGIN. Mayor Thompson of Chicago gets this out of his system: "Under pernicious democratic rule . . . we are capitalizing the hatred, the misery, the suffering, the mortal agony and all the train of pitiful incidents of the dreadful carnage in Europe. Death in Europe spells dollars in America."

THE MELTING POT FILLED BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

THE POOL. A fool and his money, sayeth the old story. Tread a bit on the same path and then part: The fool is minus money, honor and glory. And is back at the beginning, to start. This story, we admit, is worn and old. And for years awaited the undertaker: It is stiff and in death is cold. For it wasn't started by ARTHUR BROOKS BAKER.

THE BUSY SEASON FOR THE PREACHERS. JUNE. As the postman makes his daily rounds You and I are filled with consternation When we get a letter, for we fear It contains a wedding invitation.

THE NICE PART OF JUNE IS THERE IS NO FURNACE TO KEEP GOING. ADAM CROOK SEZ. Whats the use of havin a baby week when they haint old enuf to appreciate what we're doin for them. Our idea of a optimist is sumone that believes Charley Fairbanks is going to be nominated.

LIGHT OCCUPATIONS. Joseph Decker, who is having a new monument erected on his lot in the cemetery, was superintending the work of laying the foundation this morning, when workmen dug up a perfect Indian axe, made of stone. The axe was found at a depth of about nine feet, and Joe has been exhibiting it to his friends this afternoon.—Plymouth Democrat.

A MORAL. The Pussyfoot and the "I Demand It" guy went in and asked for a raise in wages. The Pussyfoot said he would like a couple dollars more a week, thought he was entitled to it, but added that if business didn't justify it he would wait. The "I Demand It" guy wanted five bucks more a week and insisted that if he didn't get it he would quit.

TEXAS BOASTS OF 44 SETS OF TWINS BORN IN ONE MONTH. Texas is one of our broadest states.

TWO LETTERS. South Bend, May 28, 1916. Press Publishing Co. Anywhere, A. T. Sirs: Please remit \$1.50 for story sent you. Ima Writer. Anywhere, A. T., May 30, 1916. Ima Writer. South Bend, Ind. Dear Ima: Enclosed find check for 75 cents. June begins Thursday.

TIS TO WEEP. Oh, I wish I had an auto With wheels so nice and white, Then I'd say that I have got to Ride this thing all day and night

THE LONGEST PART WOULD BE THE GOOD. The body would be green, But I guess it wouldn't do much good For I can't buy gasoline.

Statesmen Great and Near-Great BY FRED KELLY

WASHINGTON, May 30.—On the day that Richard Harding Davis died, two men, one of them a chap named Blake, sat in the Harvard club in New York, discussing the merits of some of Davis' earlier books. As they talked, they heard one of the club employes paging a man named Van Bibber. They commented on the coincidence of a man with that name being called for just when they were in the midst of discussing "Van Bibber and Other Stories." Later they learned that the coincidence had extended even farther. The papers came out with the news that just about the time they were hearing Van Bibber paged, Richard Harding Davis had died at the telephone while trying to call the Harvard club.

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Sen. Shafroth of Colorado, was talking about something pertaining to South America. Another senator, by way of contradiction, cited him to statements in Prescott's book on Peru. "Oh, I'm quite familiar with Mr. Preston's book," declared Shafroth. And he wondered why everybody laughed.

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Ensnared in the trench warfare there, or in resisting the mighty avalanche of men hurled at Verdun are Russians, troops from the British Isles, Frenchmen, dark skinned men from India, Belgians, Servians, Montenegrins, Canadians brought from Montreal, Australians from Melbourne, men from the United States forming the Foreign Legion, colonials from South Africa, and volunteers from New Zealand.

It is fortunate for the allies that they are in unquestioned control of the sea, for in assembling the fighting force that is holding check the mighty hosts of the central powers their troop ships have been required to semi-circle the earth.

A Mexican colonel reports that he has discovered a cave in the mountains in which Villa was in hiding for a time. This is about as important as the offer of a sea captain to take people out on his vessel and show them where a monstrous sea serpent dived.—Portsmouth, N. H. Herald.

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CONGRESSMAN ED. TAYLOR OF COLORADO, was the first principal of the high school in Leadville—back in the days when that was about the toughest mining town in the country. It was a rare thing for him to go through a day without taking away a revolver, a dirk, or a pair of brass knuckles from one of his pupils. They carried such things with them to school with the same happy unconcern that youngsters

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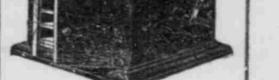
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